

**Summary of the Minutes of  
the 3rd Meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (2014 Session)**

The 3rd meeting of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) (2014 session) was held on 22 May 2014. The major issues discussed are summarised below:

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 20 March 2014**

2. The minutes of the above meeting were confirmed unanimously without amendment.

**Visit of Director of Civil Engineering and Development**

3. Director of Civil Engineering and Development briefed members on the work of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD).

4. Replies of Director of Civil Engineering and Development to members' questions and proposals are summarised below:

- (a) Regarding the project of connecting Tai Po Road - Sha Tin with Tsing Sha Highway, the road works on the Scenery Court section had already commenced. The CEDD would complete the project as soon as possible and keep the public informed.
- (b) The CEDD was considering widening the section of Tai Po Road - Sha Tin between Sha Tin Rural Committee Road and Fo Tan Road. Tree felling in the project area would be kept to a minimum, and trees would be planted as appropriate after completion of the project. Regarding relocation of underground facilities, impact on the road condition would be considered.
- (c) The CEDD would facilitate the Transport and Housing Bureau and the Transport Department in the long-term road planning.
- (d) Regarding the increase of land supply, reclamation was a feasible option having a high degree of freedom. To address public concern about water flow and air flow, the CEDD would take a scientific approach to housing development on reclaimed land. As for development of underground space and caverns, research on appropriate locations would be conducted.
- (e) In Sha Tin, 59 man-made slopes and three natural hillsides were upgraded under the Landslip Prevention and Mitigation Programme (LPMitP).

Upgrading of 18 man-made slopes and one natural hillside was underway, and in the coming year, 15 man-made slopes would fall under the LPMitP. Slope greening would be carried out as far as possible after completion of the stabilisation works. If greening was not feasible, landscaping would be carried out instead.

- (f) Regarding the circular cycle track project in North West New Territories, various issues regarding certain sections had to be resolved. The CEDD was taking follow-up actions.
- (g) The CEDD would consider carefully the proposal regarding greening works underneath flyovers. The CEDD has set up a working group earlier to encourage members to express their views on greening works in Sha Tin.
- (h) The proposal on erecting noise barriers outside the project sites of the CEDD would be forwarded to the Highways Department for consideration.
- (i) To facilitate the Highways Department's policy of "Universal Accessibility", three sites for each district had been selected. Other sites proposed would be forwarded to the Highways Department for consideration.
- (j) Regarding the locations of artificial islands, the CEDD would only consider the central waters of Hong Kong for the time being.

### **Visit of Acting Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation**

5. Acting Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation briefed members on the work of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD).

6. Replies of Acting Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation to members' questions and proposals are summarised below:

- (a) The potential development of organic farming and water culture in Hong Kong attracted young people to join the agriculture industry. In recent years, the AFCD had put in resources to develop new farming techniques. An organic farming support programme was launched to provide technical support and training for farmers. Regarding organic certification, the AFCD supported the establishment of the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre (HKORC) by Hong Kong Baptist University, and collaborated with the HKORC and the Customs and Excise Department in combating fake organic

products.

- (b) To conserve fisheries resources, trawling in Hong Kong waters without a licence was prohibited. Nevertheless, no licence was required for fishing with a net along the shores of Hong Kong waters or with hooks and lines on a boat. The AFCD supported the development of the fisheries industry by introducing new techniques of fish breeding and providing relevant training. The AFCD also actively developed the organic aquaculture industry with a view to attracting more people to join the agriculture industry.
- (c) Stray cats and dogs that caused nuisances to the public would be sent to the Animal Management Centre (AMC) if necessary. Veterinary officers of the AMC would assess the health and temperament of unclaimed cats and dogs to ensure their suitability for re-homing. Re-homing would be arranged by voluntary organisations. Those that were assessed to be unsuitable for re-homing or could not be re-homed by any voluntary organisation would be euthanised. Stray cats and dogs were kept in the AMC for eight to nine days, and the statutory requirement was four days. Because of resource constraints, stray cats and dogs could not stay in the AMC indefinitely.
- (d) The AFCD facilities in country parks were inspected regularly and immediate action would be taken to fix any damage. Owing to geographical constraints, it might not be possible to provide public toilets at certain locations of the country park. Installation of emergency call systems in country parks might also be affected by geographical factors. At present, there was mobile network coverage in most hiking trails and recreation grounds of the country park, and the AFCD would work with the Communications Authority and mobile phone network providers on the possibility of expanding the coverage.
- (e) Feeding by the public was the cause of congregation of wild birds. The AFCD had been urging the public to avoid feeding wild birds through education and publicity. After receiving a complaint on the risk of contracting avian flu, the AFCD would collect samples of bird droppings and informed the complainant of the test result. Because of high adaptability of wild birds, the AFCD kept reviewing the method of driving them away.
- (f) As wild pigs were widely spread, the AFCD was uncertain about their number, and it was difficult to control their population through neutering. After receiving a complaint, the AFCD would consider whether preventive measures could be taken and assess possible threats to public safety. Wild

pig hunting teams would be deployed if necessary. The situation was currently under control and wild pigs rarely attacked people. The AFCD would consider informing the public of the ways to deal with the wild pig problem.

- (g) Regarding the issue of wild monkeys, the long-term solution was to control their number through the neuter-return programme. As for short-term measures, a task force was set up and monkey trapping cages were placed in housing estates being affected. As Sha Tin was surrounded by three country parks, which were habitats for wild monkeys, wild monkeys occasionally entered the community mistakenly. Opening up an island for the monkeys was not recommended because it was difficult to find a suitable site where food and water would be sufficient, not to mention the impact on the primary ecosystem and possible objection from other sectors of society.

7. Ms LAM Chung-yan, seconded by Ms TUNG Kin-lei, moved the provisional motion below:

“The Sha Tin District Council requests the government to put forward effective measures against nuisances caused to the public by wild monkeys, wild birds and wild pigs, educate the public not to feed wild animals, as well as let the public know how feeding wild animals affects public safety and health and how to face up to nuisances caused by animals.”

The provisional motion above was passed by the Council unanimously.

8. STDC vice-chairman Mr PANG Cheung-wai, Thomas, seconded by Mr TANG Wing-cheong, moved the provisional motion below:

“As the issue of wild monkeys causing nuisances to the public has become increasingly serious, the Sha Tin District Council requests the government to formulate effective measures to deal with the issue of wild monkeys, prevent them from entering public homes, as well as set up a task force on management of wild monkeys for the sake of public safety.”

The provisional motion above was passed by a vote of 20 in favour, 0 against and 5 abstentions.

9. Ms TUNG Kin-lei, seconded by Mr PUN Kwok-shan, move the provisional motion below:

“To relieve overcrowding during public holidays, the Sha Tin District Council requests the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department to urge the public, via electronic media, not to drive their own cars to the car parks of the three country parks in Sha Tin, so as to avoid overcrowding on the road.”

The provisional motion above was passed by a vote of 24 in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention.

### **STDC Matters**

#### Updated Member Lists of the STDC Committees

10. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

#### The STDC to Serve as Supporter of Events

11. The Council unanimously endorsed the STDC serving as supporter of three events, viz. the 5th “Quit to Win” Smoke-free Community Campaign, Power Smart Contest 2014, and WorldSkills Hong Kong Competition, and authorised the display of the STDC logo during the promotional activities and on the promotional materials of the 5th Hong Kong Games.

#### Reports of the STDC Committees

12. The Council noted the reports of the District Facilities Management Committee, the Culture, Sports and Community Development Committee, the Education and Welfare Committee, the Development and Housing Committee, the Traffic and Transport Committee, the Health and Environment Committee, and the Finance and General Affairs Committee.

#### 2013/2014 STDC Account Statement

#### Financial Account of the STDC as at 13 May 2014

13. The Council noted the above two papers.

### **Report of the District Management Committee**

14. The Council noted the above paper.

### **Member Lists of Committees under the Sha Tin District Office**

15. The Council endorsed the above paper unanimously.

**Next Meeting**

16. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 pm on 24 July 2014.